21st January 1950]

A.—Yes. The complaint against the Tahsildar was that he was hostile to the political sufferers in the matter of assignment of lands to them. It was not considered necessary to enquire into the allegation as the Tahsildar was transferred by the Collector of Nellore on other grounds.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the comencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* CUT IN AND MANNER OF REGULATING SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know from Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu whether he is pressing his motion for adjournment? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" I press my motion Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I know how the matter is urgent? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" It is urgent because it refers to food production."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I would like the hon. Member to explain to me in a short statement how the matter is urgent."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, water is in the well; the electric pump is standing beside it; and the crop is standing on the field; but water is not coming to the field; and the standing crops will wither away if there is no water for it. There is also another aspect of it. This is the proper season for transplantation of the ragi crop. Water is there in the well; the seedlings are ready for transplantation; in fact everything is ready for transplantation, but water will not come. Therefore the supply of electric supply for pumping water from the well is an essential matter. Unless it is supplied now immediately both the standing crops and the seedlings will wither. So the motion is urgent and important."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If you will allow me, Sir, to make a few brief remarks, I will do so, and then, the hon. Member may press his motion or withdraw it."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" The pumping sets for which licences have been secured are already installed, and nothing more is wanted except supply of current."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So it is only merely a question of distribution of current. In that case I give my consent to the motion and I ask the House whether it is in favour of the motion. The motion is—

' that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the cut in and manner of regulating the supply of electricity for

agricultural purposes from Mettur and Pykara schemes, which is greatly disastrous to the food situation in the districts served by them '."

JANAB K. UPPI :—" Mr. President, Sir, the House would like to know the whole matter on the subject before they are asked to express their view on the matter. So we would like to hear the Hon. Minister on the subject."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is why I asked the hon. Member whether he is pressing it as an adjournment motion or if it be enough the matter is informally discussed. I leave it to the Hon. Member to decide it. So far as I can see, it is an urgent matter and an important matter. I now ask hon. Members who are in favour of the motion to rise up in their seat."

[Nine members stood up in their seat.]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member, Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu has the leave of the House to move his adjournment motion. The motion will be taken up as soon as other work is finished. It is likely the work of the House will be finished early to-day. So, as soon as the other work of the House is over, the adjournment motion will be taken up, and I allot one hour for the discussion of it."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House by dealing with the Bill clause by clause."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am not talking of the Panchayat Bill. I said I would allow one hour for the adjournment motion. It will be taken up immediately after the other work of the House to-day is over. There are a number of functions this evening, and I do not think it is the intention of the House to sit till evening to-day."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I certainly will not be a party to sitting late to-day. As it is, it is likely we may finish the work before four o'clock to-day."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I suggest the adjournment motion may be taken up at three o'clock, so that we may disperse in time for the evening function."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" But if the Panchayat Bill cannot be passed to-day, may I know what the Hon. Minister for Local Administration has to say on that? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" There is no objection if the Bill is not gone through to-day. I think it is not advisable for us to finish the whole Bill to-day, because if it is passed to-day we have to get the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General before the 26th instant, and there is hardly sufficient time for that. So it would be better if we keep the Bill

pending, and we can take it up on some other day. I think we may keep the Bill at the second reading stage or the third reading stage."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" In that case we may take up the adjournment motion at 2-30 p.m. and finish it by four o'clock."

III.—THE MADRAS VILLAGE PANCHAYATS BILL, 1949—*cont.*

MRS. M. HENSMAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I have not got great many points to touch upon. I think we ought to look to clause 28 first. It is a clause which deals with the general principle of appointment of executive officers, which seems to be the crux of the matter. For, there are various questions which arise in one's mind over this clause. First of all, let us see what specific work will the executive officers have to do. These are laid down in detail in the Bill, and so I need not narrate them here. But it seems to me that it would be far more desirable for the executive officer to take upon himself the task of collecting taxes. For, as he has got the right to the money of the panchayats, it would be better if he takes upon himself the task of collection of taxes. That would save a lot of time and labour otherwise spent by various people now in that connexion. I do not understand why Government should not pay the salary of the panchayat officer themselves? When he is to be appointed by the Government and when he is to be transferred by Government alone, why not he be paid by Government? Why should he be paid by the panchayat? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" There is too much noise in the House. Surely the hon. Member now speaking is entitled to the attention of the House."

MRS. M. HENSMAN :—" Sir, the executive officer has a dual authority to serve. He is appointed by the Government, whatever party is in power. His is more or less a nominated post, so to say. He may be transferred at the will of the Government. But all the same, he is to be paid by the panchayat board; not at the rate fixed by the panchayat but at a rate fixed by Government to cover salary and allowances and so on. Now, Sir, this seems to be not a proper way of dealing with the question. People who pay his salary should have control over him, and he in his turn should be responsible to them. Although the executive officer may be an officer of Government, people who pay him should have control over him. Further, his position is such, he should be a co-ordinating officer between the Government and the people. I know the Hon. Minister will say that Government would appoint only such people as officers. But, Sir, human nature is such, unprecedented crises develop, and it may be, at some future date, an officer appointed by Government may not be in full sympathy with the panchayat board, in which case, to which authority does he owe allegiance? No doubt, the Inspector is there as a supervising authority; but all the same, one has to consider the sort of executive officer, the panchayat has.